



# THE DERBY DISPATCH

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## HIDDEN SCROLL FAVORED TO MAKE AMENDS IN FLORIDA DERBY

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, March 28, 2019)** – The fact **Hidden Scroll** only lost last month's Fountain of Youth (Grade II) by three lengths to more experienced rivals after setting a scorching pace following a troubled start was, by any measure, an admirable performance. On Saturday, in the \$1 million Florida Derby (GI) at Gulfstream Park, the lightly-raced **Juddmonte** homebred will try again to get himself qualified for the Kentucky Derby (GI).

Hidden Scroll drew post No. 1 in the 1 1/8-mile Florida Derby and was installed the 5-2 morning-line choice against 10 rivals. Favored in the Fountain of Youth off a 14-length debut win in the slop in late January, Hidden Scroll will have a new rider, **Javier Castellano**, for Saturday's race.

"I think this horse is fine behind horses; he's fine on the lead if the pace is such that he needs to be on the lead. That's the rider's decision. They have to make that choice when they leave the starting gate," said trainer **Bill Mott**, who is seeking his first win in both the Florida Derby and Kentucky Derby.

The other pace elements in the field are **Maximum Security**, who has won all three starts by a combined margin of more than 34 lengths, albeit in maiden claiming and starter allowance company, and the rank outsider **Hard Belle**.

Benefiting from the hot pace of the Fountain of Youth was **Code of Honor**, who scored the first stakes win of his career after throwing in a clunker in the \$100,000 Mucho Macho Man in his season opener. He's trained by **Shug McGaughey**, who saddled **Orb** to a Fountain of Youth-Florida Derby-Kentucky Derby sweep in 2013.

"I think I have a little bit more confidence (going into the Florida Derby) because I was a little bit shook after the Mucho Macho Man," McGaughey said. "I kind of changed my strategy and that worked, so I've kept on with it and I think he's progressing the right way."

A hard-charging second in the Fountain of Youth was **Bourbon War**, who should appreciate the additional ground on Saturday. The margin between him and Code of Honor was just three-quarters of a length, and two starts back the son of Tapit defeated subsequent Sunland Park Derby (GIII) winner **Cutting Humor** in an allowance.

"I thought his gallop-out was much stronger than the rest of the field," trainer **Mark Hennig** said of Bourbon War's effort past the Fountain of Youth finish line. "It really gave us some confidence."

"His daily gallops, he's putting a lot into them, which is great to see. He's matured a lot. He's eating tremendously right now. He's a horse that's needed to fill out and grown up as the spring comes on, and he's doing that."

**Harvey Wallbanger** took a pass on the Fountain of Youth after registering a 29-1 upset of the Holy Bull (GII) in early February, but needs a strong showing Saturday to qualify for

the Churchill Downs classic with only 10 Derby qualifying points accrued so far.

**Todd Pletcher** has won the Florida Derby a record five times, including the last two editions, and will rely on longshot **Current**. A Grade III winner on turf last year and third in the Dania Beach (GIII) in his lone start this year, he finished seventh of 14 in the Kentucky Jockey Club (GII) in his only previous try on the dirt, which was contested in the slop.

Completing the field of 11 are the stakes-placed **Everfast**, **Union's Destiny**, and **Garter and Tie**, as well as the maiden **Bodexpress**.

The Florida Derby will award Kentucky Derby qualifying points of 100-40-20-10 to the top four finishers. – **Vance Hanson/Brisnet.com**

## GODOLPHIN FILLY DIVINE IMAGE DRAWS POST 6 IN UAE DERBY

– The only filly to win the UAE Derby (GII) so far, **Khawlah** (2011), sported the **Godolphin** colors, and **Divine Image** will be well backed to emulate her in Saturday's \$2.5 million renewal on the Dubai World Cup card.

Much has changed in the interim – Meydan's transition from Tapeta to dirt, the advent of **Charlie Appleby** as a Godolphin trainer, and the Kentucky Derby (GI) points system that awards 100 points to the UAE Derby winner – but Divine Image does have elements in common with Khawlah. Both are UAE Oaks (GIII) winners who came along during Carnivals that lacked a standout among the locally-based three-year-old males.

Unlike Khawlah, Divine Image ran only once at two, romping in a Chelmsford novice in December, and needed the Carnival to hone her racing wits. The Appleby pupil did well to recover from a disastrous start to finish second in the UAE 1000 Guineas. She absorbed the lesson to break better in the UAE Oaks, but still looked a little green before getting up in time.

Hence instead of training up to the Derby as Khawlah did after her more emphatic Oaks display, Divine Image wheeled back to face the boys in the Al Bastakiya over this same about 1 3/16-mile trip. The proverbial light bulb had switched on, for she dusted a big field including **Superior** and Al Bastakiya Trial winner **Manguzi**.

Divine Image's 7 1/4-length smasher on Super Saturday does prompt the question of whether she can duplicate that on three weeks' rest, and in her fourth start of the Carnival. Appleby had indicated that the Kentucky Oaks (GI) could be in play as well before committing her to World Cup night. At least one variable is removed from the equation: the daughter of Scat Daddy landed a fine post No. 6 in the 14-horse field. She also gets a five-pound weight break from the boys.

Khawlah won her UAE Derby by denying **Aidan O'Brien's Master of Hounds** in a photo. O'Brien has since won three runnings of the UAE Derby, most recently with last year's track record-breaker **Mendelssohn**, and returns with **Van Beethoven**. By Scat Daddy like both Mendelssohn and Divine

Image, Van Beethoven doesn't bring the same sort of résumé. Winless since last summer's Railway (GII), he's gone unplaced in four straight. Yet there's a suspicion that the Triple Crown nominee is a fair bit better than we've seen. His even fourth in the March 6 Patton under top weight, the same European Road race that launched Mendelssohn, should bring him on a lot. Less encouraging is his post 11.

Another hopping over from the European Road is **Sheikh Hamdan's Jahbath**, who extended his winning streak to four in the Road to the Kentucky Derby Conditions race at Kempton. The **William Haggas** trainee steps out from the confines of the British all-weather circuit for a bigger test on the international stage. His immediate pedigree suggests he'll handle the stretch-out from a mile, but it doesn't scream dirt. Not an early Triple Crown nominee, Jahbath is engaged in the Derby (GI) at Epsom, and it would be no surprise if turf classics have more appeal. Still, he's well drawn in post 2, and sire Mukhadram led a long way in the 2014 World Cup (on Tapeta) before settling for second.

Arriving via the Japan Road is **Derma Louvre**, a Triple Crown nominee coming off back-to-back placings in points races at home. After a near-miss in the Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun at Kawasaki in December, the Pyro colt was an underwhelming third in the Feb. 17 Hyacinth S. at Tokyo. Perhaps Derma Louvre needed the prep since he had looked potentially smart during a three-race winning spree last fall. And **Lani** (2016), the only Japan-based winner of this race, stepped up from a modest effort in the Hyacinth. Post 5 is also a plus for Derma Louvre with regular pilot **Christophe Lemaire**.

No U.S. shipper has captured the UAE Derby, with the top Kentucky Derby hopefuls remaining stateside, but the trio of **Plus Que Parfait**, **Gray Magician**, and **Stubbins** aim to buck that stat. The form of Plus Que Parfait's neck second in the Kentucky Jockey Club (GII) has taken its lumps in the interim. While his fifth in the Lecomte (GIII) could be excused on account of a troubled passage, his 13<sup>th</sup> in the Risen Star (GII) called for going back to the drawing board. Trainer **Brendan Walsh** prescribes the dramatic change in venue, as well as the addition of blinkers and **Jose Ortiz**, and he's gotten a plum post 4.

Gray Magician, the lone router in trainer **Peter Miller's** sprint-oriented party, takes the blinkers off after chasing home Maryland kingpin **Alwaysmining** in the Miracle Wood. Previously fourth to **Gunmetal Gray** in the Sham (GIII), Gray Magician is joined by fellow California-based Stubbins, who aired in the off-the-turf Pasadena. Both have stamina questions, and the speedy Stubbins has a tough task from post 12.

Despite the lack of clarity among the Dubai-based colts, trainer **Ahmad bin Harmash** has a real shot with his entrants for the **Phoenix Ladies Syndicate**. **Walking Thunder** shaped as the next big thing earlier in the Carnival when hacking up in three straight, only to lose his luster with a second to **Estihdaaf** in the UAE 2000 Guineas (GIII). The Triple Crown nominee didn't have the best of trips that day, but drawing the rail here, and picking up **Frankie Dettori**, signal rebound candidate.

Stablemate **Golden Jaguar** turned heads in a terrific debut at Jebel Ali, and again on the switch to turf at Meydan, but lost his perfect mark narrowly in the Meydan Classic Trial. The son of Animal Kingdom has massive upside, and a great post 3

with **Oisin Murphy**, if he doesn't cost himself by repeating rookie mistakes. He's the only of the Phoenix Ladies trio not nominated to the Triple Crown, but he was given an entry in the 2000 Guineas (GI) at Newmarket. The aforementioned Superior, best of the rest behind Divine Image in the Al Bastakiya, adds cheekpieces and keeps stable rider **Connor Beasley**.

Manguzi, no match for Walking Thunder in their lone clash, has been hampered by wide draws in every Carnival start except his trial score. The French-bred has found a way to place regardless, but his consistency will be tested from the far outside post 14 Saturday.

The remaining contenders are all fillies trying to turn the tables on Divine Image. Godolphin's **Saeed bin Suroor**, who trained Khawlah, sends out UAE Oaks runner-up **Swift Rose**. Post 13 implies she has her work cut out to get that close again. Of greater interest is the UAE Oaks third, **Razeena**, who was positively heroic throughout a wide trip. Trained by dirt maestro **Doug Watson**, Razeena could engineer a better passage this time, albeit from post 9. **Al Hayette** has the biggest mountain to climb after a well-beaten fifth in the Oaks and fourth in the Al Bastakiya.

Note that Razeena and Al Hayette were not on the list of probables released last week. There were also two defections from the projected field, **Estihdaaf** and **Grecko**.

In addition to the 100-point windfall to the winner, the UAE Derby offers 40 Derby points to the runner-up, 20 to third, and 10 to fourth. – **Kellie Reilly/Brisnet.com**

**JAPAN ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY CLOSES SUNDAY WITH FUKURYU STAKES** – The Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby will conclude Sunday with the running of the Fukuryu Stakes at Nakayama – a 1,800 meter (about 1 1/8 miles) event that will award the Top 4 finishers 40-16-8-4 points.

The field of eight 3-year-olds is led by Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun winner **Nova Lenda**. Trained by **Takashi Saito** and ridden by **Shu Ishibashi**, Nova Lenda has 20 points on the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby and should his ownership choose to late nominate for the Triple Crown, he would be the current points leader.

Also entered in the Fukuryu Stakes is Triple Crown nominee **Master Fencer** who finished fourth in the Hyacinth Stakes on Feb. 17.

The Fukuryu Stakes is carded as Race 10 with a scheduled post time of 1:50 a.m. EDT. – **Kevin Kerstein**

#### PAST PERFORMANCES & HISTORY

Brinset.com Triple Crown Past Performances  
<http://bit.ly/2C701vP>

UAE Derby Stakes History  
<http://bit.ly/2FAP2vF>

Florida Derby Stakes History  
<http://bit.ly/2TLasvm>

Florida Derby Past Performances  
<http://bit.ly/2OwYhBd>

## ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY TOP 25

#	Horse	Trainer	Points
1.	By My Standards	Bret Calhoun	100
2.	War of Will	Mark Casse	60
3.	Code of Honor	Shug McGaughey III	54
4.	Long Range Toddy	Steve Asmussen	53.5
5.	Cutting Humor	Todd Pletcher	50
6.	Haikal	Kiaran McLaughlin	50
7.	Tacitus	Bill Mott	50
8.	Game Winner	Bob Baffert	45
9.	Spinoff	Todd Pletcher	40
10.	Omaha Beach	Richard Mandella	37.5
11.	Mind Control	Gregg Sacco	30
12.	Another twistafate	Blaine Wright	30
13.	Country House	Bill Mott	30
14.	Sueno	Keith Desormeaux	28
15.	Improbable	Bob Baffert	25
16.	Mucho Gusto	Bob Baffert	24
17.	Bourbon War	Mark Hennig	21
18.	Somelikeithotbrown	Mike Maker	20
19.	Outshine	Todd Pletcher	20
20.	Knicks Go	Ben Colebrook	18
21.	Signalman	Kenny McPeck	18
22.	Tax	Danny Gargan	12
23.	Gray Attempt	Jinks Fires	10
24.	Harvey Wallbanger	Kenny McPeck	10
25.	Well Defined	Kathleen O'Connell	10

## DERBY DETAIL

**NBCSN TO BROADCAST FLORIDA DERBY, NEW EPISODE OF 'ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY'** – As the May 4 running of the 145<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Derby approaches, **NBCSN** presents exclusive live coverage of the \$1 million Florida Derby on Saturday at 6 p.m. ET from Gulfstream Park in Hallandale Beach, Fla. Earlier in the day at 11 a.m. ET, NBC Sports will present exclusive live coverage of the \$12 million Group I Dubai World Cup, the world's richest horse race, on NBCSports.com and the NBC Sports app from Meydan Racecourse in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The Grade I Florida Derby is a key Kentucky Derby prep race, awarding qualifying points on a 100-40-20-10 scale for the top four finishers. Fifteen Florida Derby winners have gone on to win the Kentucky Derby, more than any other prep race. **Hidden Scroll** is the likely betting favorite, but he'll face stiff competition from **Code of Honor**, **Bourbon War**, and **Maximum Security** in one of the strongest prep race fields this year.

**Ahmed Fareed** hosts Saturday's Florida Derby coverage on NBCSN, alongside analysts **Jerry Bailey**, the Hall of Fame jockey who won the Florida Derby three times, and **Randy Moss**. Coverage will be streamed live on NBCSports.com and the NBC Sports app – NBC Sports Group's live streaming product for mobile devices, tablets, and connected TVs.

The \$12 million Group 1 Dubai World Cup is expected to feature 2018 Breeders' Cup Classic runner-up **Gunnivera**, 2018 Florida Derby winner **Audible**, and 2018 Belmont Stakes second-place finisher **Gronkowski**.

Also streaming live on NBCSports.com and the NBC Sports app from Meydan Racecourse will be the \$6 million Group 1 Dubai Turf and the \$6 million Group 1 Longines Dubai Sheema Classic.

Following Saturday's coverage of the Florida Derby, NBC Sports, in partnership with Churchill Downs, presents a new episode of the Road to the Kentucky Derby series. Beginning at 7 p.m. ET on NBCSN, the second of four 30-minute

episodes highlights the story of **Chuck Zacney**, owner of 2005 favorite **Afleet Alex**, who finished third in the Kentucky Derby before winning the Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes. The episode also features a behind-the-scenes visit with veteran jockey **Mike Smith**, who won the Triple Crown last year on **Justify**. Produced by Churchill Downs, the episodes provide viewers with an inside look at the extensive preparations for the first leg of the Triple Crown. – **NBC SPORTS**

**BY MY STANDARDS ARRIVES AT CHURCHILL DOWNS** – TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (Grade II) winner **By My Standards** arrived at Churchill Downs early Wednesday morning via van from his winter base at Fair Grounds and became the first Kentucky Derby contender to reach the grounds of the historic Louisville racetrack.

Owned by Madisonville, Ky.-native **Chester Thomas' Allied Racing Stable** and trained by **Bret Calhoun**, **By My Standards** pulled off a 22-1 upset in the Louisiana Derby to earn 100 points and ultimately guaranteed his spot in the starting gate for the Grade I, \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve on Saturday, May 4.

"We're very excited to have him back in Louisville," said assistant trainer **Dennis "Peaches" Geier**, who is overseeing the shedrow at Churchill Downs for Calhoun. "It should be fun

**By My Standards** is stabled in Barn 23 at Churchill Downs and is expected to begin training for the Derby starting Thursday morning, according to Calhoun.

Meanwhile, Fair Grounds Oaks (GII) hero **Street Band** arrived at Churchill Downs by van on Wednesday from Fair Grounds. Trained by multiple Kentucky Oaks winning conditioner **Larry Jones**, **Street Band** is stabled in Barn 28.

Also arriving on Wednesday was Louisiana Derby third-place finisher **Sueno**. He joined trainer **Keith Desormeaux's** Barn 24 at Churchill Downs to begin training for a possible start in the Lexington Stakes (GIII).

As of Thursday, there were approximately 500 horses on the backstretch of Churchill Downs, according to senior director of the stable area **Steve Hargrave**. – **Kevin Kerstein**

**LATE TRIPLE CROWN NOMINATIONS DUE MONDAY** – A late nomination payment of \$6,000 is due Monday to compete in the races of the 2019 Triple Crown.

For information on late nomination forms and contact information, visit [www.thetriplicecrown.com](http://www.thetriplicecrown.com).

**ADDITIONAL TRIPLE CROWN NEWS** – Hall of Fame trainer **Bob Baffert** reported Rebel Stakes runner-up **Improbable** will now be ridden by **Jose Ortiz** in the April 13 Arkansas Derby (GI). ... Owner **Samantha Siegel** reported via Twitter that Rebel Stakes fourth-place finisher **Extra Hope** would be ridden by **Drayden Van Dyke** in the Santa Anita Derby.



## THE RUNDOWN

### UAE DERBY (GII)

Saturday, March 30, \$2.5 million, 3yo, 1 3/16 M, Meydan Racecourse (R5), Post time: 10:05 a.m. EDT, Dubai, UAE, Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10. TV: TVG

# Horse (Points)	Jockey	Trainer	ODDS
1. Walking Thunder (0)	Frankie Dettori	Ahmad bin Harmash	5-1
2. +Jahbath (0)	Jim Crowley	William Haggas	6-1
3. +Golden Jaguar (0)	Osin Murphy	Ahmad bin Harmash	15-1
4. Plus Que Parfait (4)	Jose Ortiz	Brendan Walsh	15-1
5. Derma Louvre (0)	Christophe Lemaire	Hirofumi Toda	12-1
6. +Divine Image (0)	William Buick	Charlie Appleby	2-1
7. Superior (0)	Connor Beasley	Ahmad bin Harmash	12-1
8. Gray Magician (1)	Joel Rosario	Peter Miller	15-1
9. +Razeena (0)	Pat Dobbs	Doug Watson	50-1
10. +Al Hayette (0)	Fabrice Veron	Ismail Mohammed	50-1
11. Van Beethoven (0)	Ryan Moore	Aidan O'Brien	10-1
12. +Stubbins (0)	Flavien Prat	Doug O'Neill	10-1
13. +Swift Rose (0)	Pat Cosgrave	Saeed bin Suroor	30-1
14. +Manguzi (0)	Fernando Jara	Ali Rashid Al-Rayhi	15-1

### FLORIDA DERBY (GI)

Saturday, March 30, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Gulfstream Park (R14), Post time: 6:36 p.m. EDT. Hallandale Beach, Fla., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10. TV: NBCSN, TVG.

# Horse (Points)	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1. Hidden Scroll (5)	Javier Castellano	Bill Mott	5-2
2. Current (0)	Manny Franco	Todd Pletcher	15-1
3. Harvey Wallbanger (10)	Brian Hernandez Jr.	Kenny McPeck	15-1
4. Bourbon War (21)	Irad Ortiz Jr.	Mark Hennig	7-2
5. Everfast (4)	Chris Landeros	Dale Romans	20-1
6. +Hard Belle (0)	Jose Bautista	Jaime Mejia	50-1
7. Maximum Security (0)	Luis Saez	Jason Servis	9-2
8. Bodexpress (0)	Nik Juarez	Gustavo Delgado	30-1
9. Code of Honor (54)	John Velazquez	Shug McGaughey	3-1
10. Union's Destiny (0)	Leonel Reyes	Juan Carlos Avila	30-1
11. Garter and Tie (0)	Jeffrey Sanchez	Ralph Nicks	15-1

### FUKURYO STAKES

Sunday, March 31, \$126,400, 3yo, 1800 meters, Nakyama Racecourse (R10), Post time: 1:50 a.m. EDT. Japan RTKD Top 4 Points: 40-16-8-4.

# Horse	Jockey	Trainer
1. +Cameron	Takuya Ono	Teichi Konno
2. +Gold Lagoon	Yoshihiro Furukawa	Takashi Saito
3. +Der Flug	Akihide Tsumura	Nobuhiro Suzuki
4. +Nanyo Izayoi	Yoshitomi Shibata	Mikio Matsunaga
5. +Nova Lenda	Shu Ishibashi	Takashi Saito
6. +Black Warrior	Kosei Miura	Masayuki Nishimura
7. Master Fencer	Hirofumi Uchida	Koichi Tsunoda
8. +Rhein Carina	Miyabi Muto	Yoshinori Muto

+Not Triple Crown Nominated

### GULFSTREAM PARK OAKS (GII)

Saturday, March 30, \$250,000, 3yo fillies, 1 1/16 M, Gulfstream Park (R8), Post time: 3 p.m. EDT. Hallandale Beach, Fla., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10. TV: TVG

# Horse (Points)	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1. ++Safta (0)	Manny Franco	Dermot Magner	20-1
2. ++Shacklette (0)	Nik Juarez	Dale Romans	20-1
3. Point of Honor (10)	Javier Castellano	George Weaver	9-5
4. ++Bella Ciao (0)	Luis Saez	Antonio Sano	15-1
5. Champagne Anyone (13)	Chris Landeros	Ian Wilkes	6-1
6. ++Dunbar Road (0)	Irad Ortiz Jr.	Chad Brown	8-5
7. \$-Cookie Dough (20)	Jeffrey Sanchez	Stan Gold	7-2

++Not Kentucky Oaks Nominated

\$ Notified Churchill Downs officials that they will late nominate to the Kentucky Oaks

## UPCOMING ROAD TO THE DERBY RACES

Date	Race	Track	Top 4 Points
March 30	UAE Derby	Meydan	100-40-20-10
March 30	Florida Derby	GP	100-40-20-10
March 31	Fukuryu#	Nakyama	40-16-8-4
April 6	Wood Memorial	Aqu	100-40-20-10
April 6	Blue Grass	Kee	100-40-20-10
April 6	Santa Anita Derby	SA	100-40-20-10
April 11	Cardinal Condition*	Chelmsford	30-12-6-3
April 13	Arkansas Derby	OP	100-40-20-10
April 13	Lexington	Kee	20-8-4-2

# Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby

\* European Road to the Kentucky Derby

## ROAD TO DERBY VIDEO SERIES

- Episode 7: A Big Race for an Intimate Track  
<http://bit.ly/RTKDEP7>
- Episode 6: A Potential Super Star  
<https://bit.ly/2SUIYYC>
- Episode 5: Follow Trainer Kelly Breen as he Trains Son of Orb  
<https://bit.ly/2SwgeF3>
- Episode 4: Kenny McPeck – The Underdog Trainer  
<https://bit.ly/2tl1fyM>
- Episode 3: Breeders' Cup Battle Produces Early Derby Favorite  
<https://bit.ly/2UzkWryR>
- Episode 2: A Twist in the Road at Keeneland  
<https://bit.ly/2DBL05h>
- Episode 1: Neuroscience to the Iroquois Stakes  
<https://bit.ly/2SR398P>

## SPOTLIGHT HORSE: BY MY STANDARDS

- Louisiana Derby (Grade II) winner **By My Standards** pulled off a 22-1 upset to earn 100 points and stamp himself a likely starting position in the Kentucky Derby. Owned by **Chester Thomas' Allied Racing Stable** and trained by **Bret Calhoun**, By My Standards was one of the first Derby contenders to arrive on the backstretch of Churchill Downs.
- Owner information:** Thomas is a native of Madisonville, Ky., located in the western part of the state. Thomas, who is an entrepreneur, started Allied Racing Stable in 2012 and earned his 100<sup>th</sup> victory in the Louisiana Derby with By My Standards. Thomas runs many horses at Ellis Park and considers the Henderson, Ky. track his "home base."
- Trainer information:** Calhoun, 54, was born in Dallas, Texas and began training in 1993. Calhoun's father, **Buddy**, was a longtime owner and trainer based in Louisiana. One of the mainstays at Churchill Downs, Calhoun has campaigned Breeders' Cup winners **Chamberlin Bridge** (Turf Sprint) and **Dubai Majesty** (Filly and Mare Sprint) along with Grade I winner **Finley'sluckycharm**. Calhoun is married to **Sara Escudero**, the mother of fellow trainer **Joe Sharp**. Calhoun's staff at Churchill Downs includes longtime assistant trainer **Dennis "Peaches" Geier** and Louisville-native **Tom Morgan**, who was a graduate of St. Xavier High School in 2004. – **Kevin Kerstein**

## SCULLY'S KENTUCKY DERBY REPORT

### MAJOR QUALIFIERS BEGIN WITH AN UPSET

**By My Standards** jumped from a maiden special win to graded stakes company and sprung a 22-1 upset in the \$1 million TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (Grade II) at Fair Grounds, stamping his Kentucky Derby ticket with a 100-point prize in the first of seven major qualifiers.

The \$800,000 Sunland Derby (GIII) was worth half the points (50 to winner) a day later and continued a common theme on this year's Road to the Kentucky Derby series, with **Cutting Humor** recording his initial stakes tally.

There's been only one repeat winner from 19 qualifiers since Jan. 1 and nine of the last 15 have been captured by first-time stakes winners.

It's crunch time, with the first Saturday in May only five weeks from this Saturday, and Saturday's \$1 million Florida Derby (GI) at Gulfstream Park will be an important test for expected post-time favorite **Hidden Scroll**. The spectacular maiden winner appears to have the goods in terms of talent but it takes more than raw ability to win the 1 1/4-mile Kentucky Derby.

After needlessly dueling with a 132-1 longshot through blistering fractions and weakening to fourth in the Fountain of Youth (GII), **Hidden Scroll** must show more from a mental standpoint while breaking from a tricky rail post in an 11-horse field. He faces a solid Florida Derby cast that includes **Code of Honor** and **Bourbon War**.

Another major final prep, the \$2.5 million UAE Derby (GII), will be offered Saturday and a filly tops the about 1 3/16-mile test. **Divine Image**, who exits a romping win over males in the March 9 Al Bastakiya at Meydan, heads a group of 14 that includes American invaders **Plus Que Parfait** and **Stubbins**.

#### *Louisiana Derby*

**By My Standards** made his career debut in late November and placed in his first three starts before graduating by a 4 1/4-length margin on the Feb. 16 Risen Star undercard at Fair Grounds. Owned by **Allied Racing Stable LLC** and trained by **Bret Calhoun**, the Goldencents colt broke from post 5 with regular rider **Gabe Saez** and established a good stalking position behind the first flight of **Lemniscate** and **Sueno**.

**Spinoff** showed speed to establish positioning from post 10 and settled to the outside of **By My Standards** through the first turn.

Risen Star (GII) and Lecomte (GIII) winner **War of Will**, the 4-5 favorite, appeared to lose his footing when taking a couple of awkward strides after the start. He never was a factor afterward and wound up ninth of 11. Trainer **Mark Casse** said the colt appeared to sustain a muscle strain but should recover quickly, and the Kentucky Derby remains in play.

He's got the points (60) to make the field and **War of Will** looks like a pace player if he does enter. The Louisiana Derby marked the second time he wasn't prominent from the start and he's experienced troubled trips in both.

**By My Standards** and **Spinoff** moved in tandem along the backstretch and into the far turn. **Spinoff** traveled wider into the lane and got first jump on his rival, surging to a one-length lead in upper stretch. **By My Standards** held his position while

advancing a couple of paths off the rail but ran into traffic after straightening for home, altering course to the inside for clear sailing.

The top two separated themselves from the rest and **By My Standards** overhauled **Spinoff** in the final sixteenth of a mile, edging away under the wire to win by nearly a length. The winner received a 102 BRIS Speed rating, 12 points better than his previous best, and posted a commendable 102 BRIS Late Pace number. The last eight Kentucky Derby winners showed at least one triple-digit BRIS Late Pace rating from their three-year-old prep races.

**By My Standards** is from the first crop of two-time Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (GI) winner Goldencents and hails from the Gone West mare Muqtarib, a multiple turf stakes winner. Stamina influences can be found in the extended female family.

Calhoun said they've always thought highly of **By My Standards** but the bay colt needed time to develop.

"The maiden (win) came later than we expected," Calhoun said. "The light really came on after that race. The mornings he'd been phenomenal from that race moving forward and he really gave us a lot of confidence coming in here."

**Spinoff** recorded a fine second, five lengths better than third-placer **Sueno**, and should be safely in the Kentucky Derby field with 40 points. Third in the Saratoga Special (GII) in mid-August, **Spinoff** returned from a five-month layoff with an 11 3/4-length allowance score at Tampa Bay Downs in his previous outing.

The son of **Hard Spun** is trained by two-time winner **Todd Pletcher**, who leads all trainers with 52 starts in the first leg of the American Triple Crown. **Pletcher** is poised to saddle a Kentucky Derby starter for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

#### *Sunland Derby*

**Cutting Humor** enjoyed a favorable trip just off a contested pace and pounced leaving the far turn, slingshotting to a clear lead in midstretch. He dug in gamely to withstand the late charge of **Anothertwistafate** by a neck and established a new track record, completing 1 1/8 miles in 1:46.94.

**Pletcher** conditions the son of First Samurai for **Starlight Racing** and **John Velazquez**, who was up a day earlier on **Spinoff**, traveled to New Mexico for the mount. A maiden winner the third time out in his juvenile finale, **Cutting Humor** opened 2019 with a second-place finish to subsequent Fountain of Youth runner-up **Bourbon War** in a Gulfstream allowance and was exiting a troubled seventh as the favorite in the Feb.18 Southwest (GIII) at Oaklawn Park.

The well-traveled sophomore (raced at Belmont, Gulfstream Park West and Keeneland last year) earned a career-best 99 BRIS Speed rating and a 101 Late Pace figure. Out of an unraced Pulpit mare, **Cutting Humor** comes from a classy female family but his dam counts multiple GI-winning sprinter **Zensational** as a half-brother. They're both out of the Phone Trick mare **Joke**, **Cutting Humor's** second maternal dam, and that's a lot of speed on the female side.

**Cutting Humor** rates as an improving type with upside but must outrun his pedigree while stretching out an extra furlong next time. And considering he appeared to be tiring late, it's easy to question whether he'll be effective at 1 1/4 miles at this stage of his career.

Anothertwistafate proved his effectiveness on dirt and confirmed himself as a viable Kentucky Derby contender. Unplaced the first time out at Santa Anita, the **Blaine Wright**-trained colt dominated his next outings over the Tapeta track at Golden Gate Fields and had already earned 10 qualifying points for a seven-length triumph in the Feb. 16 El Camino Real Derby. He's by the late Scat Daddy, sire of 2018 Triple Crown winner **Justify**, and his female family features numerous turf stakes winners.

After dueling briefly with pacesetter **Mucho Gusto**, Anothertwistafate eased back to sit a comfortable trip behind a pair of early runners but found himself stuck in upper stretch as Cutting Humor rolled by him on the outside. Once jockey **Juan Hernandez** guided him out, Anothertwistafate finished fast to just miss and netted his second consecutive triple-digit Late Pace rating (101).

Mucho Gusto, who bet down as the 4-5 favorite off a convincing win in the Feb. 2 Robert B. Lewis (GIII) at Santa Anita, weakened in the final furlong to be six lengths back of the winner.

#### *Scully's Kentucky Derby Top 10*

1. OMAHA BEACH: Held off Game Winner to win stakes debut
2. GAME WINNER: Came up a little short but solid return in Rebel
3. LONG RANGE TODDY: Making big strides for Asmussen
4. HIDDEN SCROLL: Florida Derby will prove whether he belongs on list
5. IMPROBABLE: Juvenile GI winner couldn't hold lead in his return
6. TACITUS: Tampa Bay Derby winner has upside for Mott
7. CODE OF HONOR: Fountain of Youth winner could be third choice in Florida Derby
8. BOURBON WAR: Fan base swelled following a fast-closing second
9. BY MY STANDARDS: Late-developing colt surprised in Louisiana Derby
10. ANOTHER TWISTAFATE: Carried synthetic form to dirt in Sunland Derby

#### LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS UPDATE

Davona Dale (GII) runner-up **Cookie Dough** and Suncoast winner **Point of Honor** highlight a field of seven 3-year-old fillies in Saturday's \$250,000 Gulfstream Park Oaks (GII). A final major qualifier in the Road to the Kentucky Oaks series, the 1 1/16-mile race awards points on a 100-40-20-10 scale to the top four finishers.

After recording multiple Florida-bred stakes wins as a two-year-old, Cookie Dough returned from a five-month layoff against open rivals in the March 2 Davona Dale and just missed leading wire to wire, coming up a head short in second. **Stanley Gold** trains the daughter of Brethren and **Jeffrey Sanchez** retains the mount on the dark bay.

Point of Honor enters with a two-for-two record and captured her career debut at Gulfstream in mid-December, rolling to a six-length decision in an off-the-turf maiden special weight. The **George Weaver**-trained Curlin filly shipped to

Tampa Bay Downs and continued to dominate with a 2 3/4-length score as the favorite, posting a field-beat 94 BRIS Speed rating. **Javier Castellano** guides the chestnut.

**Dunbar Road** will receive a class check following an 8 3/4-length tally in her lone start, taking a March 3 maiden special weight at Gulfstream, and **Jose Ortiz** will be up for **Chad Brown**. **Champagne Anyone**, who exits a pair of thirds in the Davona Dale and Forward Gal (GIII), is also part of the mix. Trainer **Ian Wilkes** adds blinkers and **Chris Landeros** rides.

Completing the field are stakes-placed **Bella Ciao**; **Shacklette**, who exits a victory in a starter optional claiming event; and the maiden **Safta**. — **James Scully/TwinSpires.com**

#### ROAD TO THE LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS TOP 20

#	Horse	Trainer	Points
1.	Street Band	Larry Jones	100
2.	Liora	Wayne Catalano	71
3.	Chasing Yesterday	Bob Baffert	60
4.	Serengeti Empress	Tom Amoss	60
5.	Chocolate Kisses	Mark Casse	51
6.	Jeltrin	Alexis Delgado	51
7.	Espresso Shot	Jorge Abreu	50
8.	Jaywalk	John Servis	35
9.	Bellafina	Simon Callaghan	32
10.	Eres Tu	Steve Asmussen	24
11.	Restless Rider	Kenny McPeck	22
12.	Sweet Diane	Mike Stidham	22
13.	Oxy Lady	Jack Siston	21
14.	Naughty Joker	Wesley Ward	20
15.	Motion Emotion	Tom Van Berg	20
16.	\$-Cookie Dough	Stan Gold	20
17.	Champagne Anyone	Ian Wilkes	13
18.	Positive Spirit	Rodolphe Brisset	10
19.	Needs Supervision	Jerry O'Dwyer	10
20.	Feedback	Chad Brown	10

§ Notified Churchill Downs officials that they will late nominate to the Kentucky Oaks

## TAKING SHAPE

The possible fields for Kentucky Derby Championship Series races are fluid as horsemen vie for points on the "Road to the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve." Below are known horses mentioned to be under consideration for each race based on published news reports and other sources:

### WOOD MEMORIAL (GII)

Saturday, April 6, \$750,000, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Aqueduct, Ozone, N.Y., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

<u>Horse (Points)</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Brisnet.com Prime Power</u>	<u>Run Style</u>
<b>Known Likely Starters:</b>			
Haikal (50)	Kiaran McLaughlin	140.8	S 3
Mind Control (30)	Gregg Sacco	140.0	E/P 3
Tax (12)	Danny Gargan	137.8	E/P 7
Tacitus (50)	Bill Mott	132.1	E/P 4
<b>Known Possible Starters:</b>			
Galilean (7.5)	Jerry Hollendorfer	141.1	E 8
Outshine (20)	Todd Pletcher	134.6	P 6

### BLUE GRASS (GII)

Saturday, April 6, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Keeneland, Lexington, Ky., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

<u>Horse (Points)</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Brisnet.com Prime Power</u>	<u>Run Style</u>
<b>Known Likely Starters:</b>			
Somelikeithotbrown (20)	Mike Maker	144.4	E/P 7
Vekoma (10)	George Weaver	141.1	P 5
Signalman (18)	Kenny McPeck	135.9	P 1
Dream Maker (0)	Mark Casse	131.7	P 3
Admire (0)	Dale Romans	129.9	E/P 4
Market King (10)	D. Wayne Lukas	127.9	E 8
Chess Chief (0)	Dallas Stewart	115.8	S 4
<b>Known Possible Starters:</b>			
Galilean (7.5)	Jerry Hollendorfer	141.1	E 8
Anothertwistafate (30)	Blaine Wright	139.6	E/P 7
Country House (30)	Bill Mott	139.2	S 0
Outshine (20)	Todd Pletcher	134.6	P 6
Knicks Go (18)	Ben Colebrook	134.3	E 7

### SANTA ANITA DERBY (GI)

Saturday, April 6, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Santa Anita, Arcadia, Calif., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

<u>Horse (Points)</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Brisnet.com Prime Power</u>	<u>Run Style</u>
<b>Known Likely Starters:</b>			
Game Winner (30)	Bob Baffert	153.4	P 3
Instagrاند (10)	Jerry Hollendorfer	145.7	E/P 6
Extra Hope (5.75)	Richard Mandella	135.1	E/P 6
Roadster (0)	Bob Baffert	135.0	E/P 7
Nolo Contesto (0)	John Sadler	130.2	E/P 5
<b>Known Possible Starters:</b>			
Galilean (7.5)	Jerry Hollendorfer	141.1	E 8

### ARKANSAS DERBY (GI)

Saturday, April 13, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Oaklawn Park, Hot Springs, Ark., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

<u>Horse (Points)</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Brisnet.com Prime Power</u>	<u>Run Style</u>
<b>Known Likely Starters:</b>			
Improbable (25)	Bob Baffert	146.3	E/P 6
Omaha Beach (37.5)	Richard Mandella	139.4	E/P 8
Long Range Toddy (57.5)	Steve Asmussen	137.8	E/P 6
Gray Attempt (10)	Jinks Fires	132.9	E 8
<b>Known Possible Starters:</b>			
Galilean (7.5)	Jerry Hollendorfer	141.1	E 8
Country House (30)	Bill Mott	139.2	S 0
Outshine (20)	Todd Pletcher	134.6	P 6
Last Judgment (0)	Todd Pletcher	132.1	E/P 6

## LEXINGTON (GIII)

Saturday, April 13, \$200,000, 3yo, 1 1/16 M, Keeneland, Lexington, Ky., Top 4 Points: 20-8-4-2.

<u>Horse (Points)</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Brisnet.com Prime Power</u>	<u>Run Style</u>
<b>Known Possible Starters:</b>			
Sueno (28)	Keith Desormeaux	139.8	E/P 6
Knicks Go (18)	Ben Colebrook	134.3	E 7

-END-